

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the paragraph beginning at Page 3, line 1 with the following amended paragraph:

According to the invention gases or gas mixtures with low intake pressure are proposed, which, as a result of exothermic conditions, produce a manifold increase in volume on burn-off and require no filters of any kind. The gas or gas mixture usable according to the invention consists of the oxidising agent. In order to avoid high intake pressure, oxygen or air is dispensed with as oxidising agent. In dinitrogen monoxide, e.g., nitrous oxide (N_2O , laughing gas), there exists a gas which may be easily liquefied (critical pressure: 72.7 bar, critical temperature: $36.4^{\circ}C$). The oxidising capacity is twice as high as that of air and in contrast to pure oxygen or air, laughing gas behaves up to at least $200^{\circ}C$ as an inert gas, as a result of which quiescent oxidising processes are prevented even during storage at high temperature. ~~Nitrogen-Nitric oxide, e.g., mononitrogen~~ monoxide (NO/N_2O , critical pressure 64 bar, critical temperature - $93^{\circ}C$) may also be used in a mixture with laughing gas or as a gaseous oxidising agent on its own. In order to control the reactivity of the gases, inert gases (carbon dioxide, air, helium, neon, argon) may be added. The use of nitrogen monoxide has the advantage that there is no formation of condensed portions which first have to evaporate during the burn-off reaction. Additions of smell-intensive gases such as e.g. mercaptans in small amounts may make a rapid detection of leaks possible. The addition of e.g. vanillin improves the smell properties of the burn-off fumes in the application case.